

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the discrimination means. It is respectfully submitted that this amendment merely makes explicit that which was implicit in the claim prior to the amendment and therefore does not constitute a narrowing amendment.

Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 4-11 stand rejected for the same reasons since these claims were rejected in the previous Office Action.

In response to Applicant's previous amendment, the Examiner states that "'Tagami et al. clearly discloses that 'P' at the upper right of the reproduced image represents a panorama image...when the output image is a panorama image, a mark representing such is indicated in the reproduced image' (See col. 27, lines 7-16), which reads on 'discriminating that the image data is a panoramic image' in the recited claims."

Applicant does not dispute that Tagami displays a P on the reproduced image to represent a panorama image. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Tagami et al. that the aspect ratio of image data is compared to the aspect ratio of the display area of the display device to determine whether the image data represents a panoramic image. Nor is there any teaching or suggestion of display mode setting means responsive to the display discrimination means for setting the display mode based upon the determination made by the discrimination means. Instead, in Tagami, the panorama mode is determined by an operator operating a playback button 52 and a direction button or direction button 53 (see col. 25, lines 17-22).

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Tagami et al. does not teach an image reproduction apparatus comprising inter alia display-image discrimination means which includes means for comparing the aspect ratio of image data to that of the display area of the display device and, if it differs, determining that the image data is a panoramic image ratio device or of display mode setting means responsive to the display discrimination means for setting the display mode based on the determination made by the display discrimination means.

Tanaka et al. is cited as showing an at-a-glance mode. However, there is no teaching in Tanaka of the means for discriminating or display mode means set forth in claim 1. Accordingly,

it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is clearly patentable over the combination of Tagami et al. and Tanaka et al.

Claims 2 and 4-11 are dependent either directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore patentable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features set forth in these claims with the combination of features set forth in the claim(s) from which they depend.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 30, 2004:

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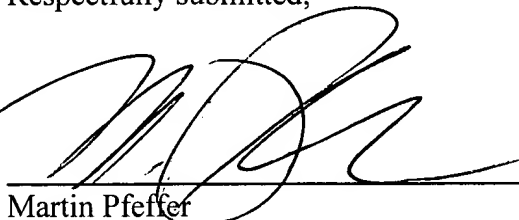
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March 30, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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